

# GERMANY IS SEEKING AN ARMISTICE

## Mighty Effort to Break Italy's Defense Lines

### ITALIANS CAN HOLD; TROOPS FULL OF 'PEP'

Fierce Struggle is Around Piave Line to Hill's Section.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Great activity among the Austro-German divisions all along the Italian front, reported in official dispatches from Rome received here today, are declared to forecast a still greater offensive in the northern sector with elaborate preparations for a mighty effort to break through.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Nov. 28.—(By The Associated Press.)—A visit made today to the fighting ground at Monte Mafrenco and other mountains in the fighting zone in the north, and then to the Piave line, where it joins the mountain front, afforded opportunity to see this central point of the present huge struggle.

General Garibaldi, commander of the famous Alpine brigade, declared the fighting has shown that the Italian troops could hold the line beyond any question. Speaking of the spirit of his men, he added:

"If the enemy ever does get past, owing to superior generalship or superior strength of arms, it will be only over the dead bodies of our troops, for they are determined never to yield."

#### Great Masses of Troops.

The roads leading to the battle front showed increasing masses of troops being brought up for concentration on the threatened lines. Much artillery was coming in. The men and horses seemed to be in good condition after the hard drive. Miles of infantry moved forward, the ranks showing fresh and youthful troops. They were steel helmets and were getting ready to go into action.

Passing headquarters of the fourth army which holds the vital line between the Brenta and Piave rivers, a staff officer of General Robilant, commander of this army, summed up the general situation as "satisfactory," the reports showing that the enemy was being held.

#### Austrians Won by Struggle.

While the pressure of the Austro-German forces is still impetuous, at the same time they seem to have been worn down by heavy losses and the unexpected strength of the resistance they have encountered. This staff officer estimated the enemy losses as fully two or three times those of the Italians, as the defensive lines always have afforded greater shelter.

#### Enemy in Mass Movement.

Rome, Nov. 28.—"On the Asiago plateau, in the Primolano basin, at the north of Col della Borretta, and on the middle Piave," says today's Italian official statement, "our batteries in cooperation with bombardment flights have carried out concentrations of fire on enemy troops, massed and in movement."

#### Four enemy airplanes were brought down yesterday by our airmen."

#### Deny Rumor About Pope.

Washington, Nov. 28.—A dispatch from Rome received here today, says: "The enemy is making large scale preparations for a still greater offensive in the northern region. Yesterday in the vicinity of Malga Sappel large enemy units with machine guns attempted an encircling movement, but were counter attacked by a battalion of Alpini and forced to retreat, leaving in our hands complete sections of machine guns which were immediately turned on the fleeing enemy."

"Big guns are roaring all along the front, indicating the imminent renewal of a general offensive on the part of Austro-Germans in a mightier effort to break through our lines."

The Observatore Romano, the organ of the vatican, flatly denies the pope having directed or prepared a new peace proposal.

#### Thinks Crisis Passed.

London, Nov. 28.—"It is now time to say definitely that the crisis in Italy has passed," said Major General F. R. Maurice, chief director of military operations of the war office, in an interview today. General Maurice said there had been no important movement of German troops from the Russian front.

#### BANDITS RAID BANK.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—Six unmasked bandits raided the Windsor Park bank today and escaped in an automobile with \$2,000.

### Loved the Cook Not Wisely But Much too Well

Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 28.—Physicians said today that Mrs. Nellie McGlaughon, 31 years old, probably would die from the bullet wounds inflicted last night by Philip E. Gibbons, 29, who immediately afterward shot and killed himself.

The shooting occurred in a restaurant where the woman was a cook. Gibbons, a railroad switchman, left notes addressed to his mother and to his divorced wife.

Witnesses to the affair said Gibbons fired the fatal shots after Mrs. McGlaughon told him she "would not have anything more to do with him."

### INCREASED VALUE ILLINOIS ORDERED

State Board of Equalization Raises Property Valuation by Large Figures—\$63,971,388 Is Increase.

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 28.—An increase over the year 1916 of \$211,776,668 in the assessed valuation of property in Illinois, as equalized and assessed, was ordered by the state board of equalization today.

The board increased the tentative blanket increase on the equalized value of all Illinois lands from one per cent to three per cent, which, it was declared, would raise the total value of lands in the state \$63,971,388.

The total assessment for the state follows: Town and city lots, \$3,201,553,725. Personal property, \$1,620,177,090. Lands, \$2,165,451,033. Steam and electric roads, \$60,975,237. Steam and electric roads, \$60,975,237.

Capital stock other than railroads, \$79,474,892. Many of the large public utility corporations of Illinois received substantial increases. The Chicago Telephone company was increased \$4,633,914; the Commonwealth Edison company, \$1,675,032; Chicago Title & Trust company, \$1,000,600; the Pullman company, \$735,837; the street railway companies an aggregate increase of \$6,213,113.

St. Clair county companies were also materially affected. The St. Louis Bridge company was increased \$1,300,000, and the St. Louis Electric Bridge company, \$1,050,000.

An increase of 10 per cent was ordered in the assessed value of lands in Richland county; 4 per cent in Gallatin and Jackson counties; a reduction of 1 per cent in Lee and Ogle counties and a reduction of 5 per cent. A special increase of 1 per cent was ordered in the counties of Carroll, Jo, Davies, Stevenson, Whiteside, Henderson, Douglas, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Green, Jersey, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Pike, Scott, Christian, Macoupin, Montgomery, Madison, St. Clair, Fayette, Marion, Richland, Wabash, Hamilton, Wayne, White and Pulaski.

An increase of 1 per cent on the assessed valuation of town and city lots as found by county assessors was ordered in the following counties: Grundy, La Salle, Stephenson, Hancock, Rock Island, Warren, Adams, Fulton, DeWitt, Mason, Menard, Scott, Montgomery, Madison, St. Clair, Fayette, Marion, Richland, Wabash, Hamilton, Wayne, White and Pulaski.

### SENATOR LEWIS HAS LEADERS WITH HIM

Chicago, Nov. 28.—Senator James Hamilton Lewis is considered a candidate for reelection next year by Democratic leaders. Nothing to change this understanding was said by Senator Lewis on his return here to speak tonight at a patriotic rally.

### TEN DIVISIONS OF BELGIAN ARMY ARE READY TO ATTACK

Havre, Nov. 15 (By mail).—Ten divisions strong, the Belgian army is ready to take its part in the offensive in Flanders whenever the word is given. The Belgian minister of war today told the Associated Press that the Belgian army was composed of 117,000 men at the beginning of the war, increased by 20,000 volunteers in August, 1914, and reduced to 60,000 men after the battle of the Yser.

Since then, by the enrollment of Belgian refugees and the enlistment of volunteers who have braved the live wire barriers on the Holland frontier, it has been brought up to 10 divisions of well trained troops.

"If our army has not undertaken operations of a wider scope up to this time," said the minister, "it is because it does not devolve on it to decide the moment when these operations should begin. The army is only a part of the combined allied forces acting in unison and in accordance with carefully developed plans. The army has valiantly filled the roll, more ungrateful than glorious, that has been assigned to it. It has just proved by its brilliant participation in the last offensive in Flanders that it is ready to attack with fervor and awaits impatiently the hour."

### BIG ISSUE TO COME UP AT MEET IN CHI

Illinois Senators are Slated for Speeches On War Subjects.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—War legislation that will come before the congress which meets in Washington on Monday was discussed today at the conference of the Illinois delegation. This session was the forerunner of the big rally tonight, where United States Senators Sherman and Lewis will share rhetorical honors with members of the lower house.

Amendments to the draft law, the idea of saving the army cantonment plants for universal training, and amendments to the Lever act to give the food administrator power to control the butcher and grocer, were items for discussion in the congressional conference, which was attended also by Samuel Insull, chairman of the Illinois state council of defense, and members of the council.

#### Party Lines Are Tabooed.

The conference and the rally tonight are unique, since it is the first time in years that two Illinois senators have addressed the same audience and the entire Illinois delegation in congress has been invited, irrespective of party, to occupy seats upon the stage at a public mass meeting.

The thought of political division will be tabooed tonight and the discussion will be harmonious on the subject of the successful prosecution of the war.

### DANISH SOCIALISTS PLAN PEACE MEET

London, Nov. 28.—Concerning the proposal of T. Stauning, leader of the Danish socialist party for a conference of the socialist international next month to further a general peace, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen, Denmark, says:

"The Vorwaerts of Berlin saying that the German socialists would support the proposed new international peace conference warmly and energetically, as they did the unsuccessful Stockholm conference, declares the new conference will not be dependent on the issuance of passports by the entente powers. The conference, it says, held only for international socialist, cannot allow the governments of states which are only apparently democratic to deprive them of the right to influence the peace question."

## BRITISH BULLDOG COURAGE FEATURED FONTAINE FIGHT

### Captured German Tunnel By Cutting Off Deadly Mines.

British Headquarters in France, Tuesday, Nov. 27.—(By Associated Press.)—Despite the disadvantages at the fight for Fontaine Notre Dame, the British continued the onslaught. It was a glorious exhibition of bulldog courage. They surged on and in less than three hours had pushed the hard-hitting Germans back to the eastern side of the village, leaving enemy dead strewn in the streets.

As the British fought forward and surrounded the various buildings containing enemy machine guns, many Germans were compelled to surrender or lose their lives. By the time the eastern side of the village was reached 500 captives had been collected and sent back to swell the great total of prisoners taken since General Byng struck his telling blow last Tuesday.

The arrival of a large body of German reinforcements put a different complexion on the situation. These fresh troops immediately counter attacked and the fighting through the streets of Fontaine took on renewed vigor. The weary British refused to waver in the face of the onslaught, selling each foot of ground to the enemy at a cruel price. The western outskirts of the village were reached and here, according to latest reports, the battle continued.

Some interesting facts were made known today concerning the famous tunnel trench which the British now hold in its entirety northwest of Bellecourt. Part of this underground fortification was captured in the fighting previous to the Cambrai push, but a large portion was taken last week. The tunnel, which was built by Russian prisoners, was a most amazing piece of work. It was 13 miles long and 40 feet deep. Entrances were driven into it every 35 yards and the Germans lighted the entire place with electricity. The tunnel was mined at intervals throughout its length, but the British quickly discovered the electric wires leading to the mines and they were rendered useless.

### Life Tragedy of Printer Poet Is Ended by Bullet

Chicago, Nov. 28.—John T. Oyler, "printer poet" of Chicago, shot and killed himself in an Omaha, Neb., cemetery yesterday, according to a message received by his widow, who lives here. His body was found between the graves of his two daughters, who died in Omaha a year ago. In a letter received by Mrs. Oyler today he told of his intention to kill himself on account of "ill health and hard luck." Oyler had published several books of poems.

### DEFENSE RELIES ON GLAND STORY

Expert Medical Testimony Will Feature De Saull's Trial—Physician Gives Testimony.

Minneapolis, N. Y., Nov. 28.—What is expected to be a lengthy battle between medical experts over Mrs. Bianca De Saull's claim that her physical condition produced a lapse of accountability when she shot her divorced husband was initiated in the young woman's trial on a charge of murder in supreme court here today.

Dr. J. Sherman Wright, Mrs. De Saull's physician since the tragedy, testified that the patient's condition following the shooting indicated that she was suffering from an enfeebled functioning of the thyroid gland—from an inadequacy of the secretions of this gland. This brings about inactivity of the vital processes, Dr. Wright testified.

Mrs. De Saull's attorneys claim the condition outlined by the physician produces a brain and nerve center condition which eventually ends in "a hopeless mental infirmity." This disease, the defendant's lawyer terms "hypothyroidism." This name, however, was not used by Dr. Wright.

The doctor said he began treatment to relieve this condition and believed Mrs. De Saull in considerably better health now as a result.

### STATE READY WITH EVIDENCE OF GUILT

Concord, N. C., Nov. 28.—The first witnesses whose testimony the prosecution expects to show that Gaston B. Means murdered Mrs. Maude A. King here last August, were ready to testify at the opening of Cabarrus county court today.

The jury, consisting of nine farmers and three cotton mill workers, was completed yesterday and the solicitor announced he would open his case with testimony of L. A. Weddington, a local undertaker, and Captain W. S. Bingham of Concord, who was a member of the automobile party that went to Blackwelder Springs the day Mrs. King met death.

### NOTRE DAME FIGHT BITTER BIT OF WORK

Artillery Battle On Ypres Front is Continuing Actively.

Berlin, Nov. 28. (via London).—Artillery fighting of the greatest violence is now in progress on the Flanders front, in the region of Passchendaele, the scene of the recent heavy fighting, the war office reports.

In the Cambrai area the Germans yesterday lost Bourlon and Fontaine Notre Dame for a time, but subsequently recaptured them. The statement says more than two hundred prisoners and a number of machine guns were taken in the fighting there.

London, Nov. 28.—"The German artillery was active last night in the region of Bourlon wood (Cambrai) area," says today's official communication. No further fighting has taken place.

"On the northern front east and northeast of Ypres hostile artillery activity continues."

British Headquarters in France, Tuesday, Nov. 27.—(By The Associated Press.)—Desperate and sanguinary fighting has been raging in and about Fontaine Notre Dame since dawn today, when the British again attacked strongly held villages. Shortly after 9 o'clock it appeared that the assaulting infantry had stormed its way through the village in the face of tremendous machine gun fire both from the houses of the hamlet and from La Folle wood, to the southeast. Five hundred German prisoners were taken in the early hours of the fighting.

Late this afternoon the Germans hurried up two new divisions and threw them in for a counter attack along the Fontaine Bourlon wood line. The fighting which followed in Fontaine was even more bitter, if possible than that which occurred in the first rush through the ruined hamlet. At latest reports superior numbers of enemy infantry had pushed the British back through the village again to the western and northwestern outskirts, but the battle still continued with unabated fury.

In the meantime the British line running around Bourlon wood to the northwest was sustaining a heavy assault. The enemy appeared to be determined to regain this important position if it were humanly possible. The whole front from Fontaine to Bourlon village was the scene of fierce fighting, which at many places was at close quarters. The British line about Bourlon wood is still intact.

The attack on Fontaine Notre Dame was begun with the assistance of a very heavy artillery barrage and throughout the morning the British gunners maintained an intense fire against the German positions there. The crushing infantry drove an enterprising wedge into the northwestern part of the village in a short time, but they were held up here by a terrific rifle and machine gun fire to which they were subjected from every point of vantage.

Conditions were favorable to the Germans, for they were fighting on the defensive in well prepared positions which could only be taken by storm. Every machine gun was equivalent to several hundred rifles.

### MEN OF 'KEY' GIVEN MORE PAY BY ROADS

Washington, Nov. 28.—Mediation of the strike demands by Baltimore & Ohio telegraphers revealed today that railroad telegraphers throughout the United States have asked increased wages, an eight-hour day and pay for Sunday work. The demands have been made by the men of the individuals systems and not by the Order of Railroad Telegraphers as a whole.

Strike demands of telegraphers on the Burlington and Illinois Central were settled last week through mediation and arbitration previously composed of the differences of the Rock Island and its operators. In all three cases the men were given increased pay, pay for Sunday overtime and a reduction in the hours of labor.

### 6 Dutch Sailors Drowned; Boat Tipped in Harbor

Baltimore, Nov. 28.—Six men, all members of the crews of three Dutch steamships lying at this port, were drowned and nine were rescued early today when a launch carrying them to their ships capsized in the harbor. All were Hollanders.

Six of the survivors were taken to a hospital suffering from exposure. Among the dead were D. Wiekjes, chief engineer of the steamship Winterdyk, and C. Rotschrat and R. Kaupers, assistant engineers of the same vessel.

### 63 MEN MISSING IN ACTAEOON LOSS

Steamer Was Torpedoed By Submarine as Reported Yesterday in Dispatches By A. P.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Sixty-three men are missing in the three unaccounted for boats of the American steamer Actaeon reported yesterday torpedoed by a German submarine.

The navy's official report says one boat with 20 survivors landed at Cape Finisterre yesterday and adds nothing more to published accounts of the sinking.

### MESSAGE NEARLY READY FOR PRINT

President Wilson May Make Special Reference to Many Subjects in Address to Congress.

Washington, Nov. 28.—President Wilson continued work today on his address for the opening of congress which will be delivered in person as usual, next Tuesday.

As yet the address is in a rough draft and probably will not be printed in finished form until very shortly before delivery. On that account it probably will not be supplied very much in advance to the newspapers, as is the general custom.

There have been no intimations from official sources so far of what subjects the president will emphasize. It has been his custom, in a general way, to confine his opening address to congress to the general state of the union and treat special subjects in special addresses. In view, however, of the many pressing subjects confronting congress, it is possible that he may refer to some of them in a special way.

### EXPRESS THIEVES GET MUCH BOOTY

Chicago Arrests Uncarth \$40,000 of Booty Hidden in Woman's Home — "Ad" Is Clew.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—Thieves of express packages from the Adams Express company in the last eight months are said to have aggregated \$70,000. It was said today, in connection with the arrest of eight employees of the company, Julius Stahl, an employee, who was arrested last Sunday is said to have confessed, leading to the other arrests.

Booty valued at \$40,000 has been recovered. Much of it was found, according to the police, in the home of Miss Ethel Palfreman. It included articles varying from food to phonographs, and even a piano. An advertisement offering "beautiful gowns" for sale was the first clew obtained.

### VEIL IS COVERING EVENT IN MEXICO

General Battle Between Villa and Federals Thought Near—Fight With Traquits.

Juarez, Mexico, Nov. 28.—A strict military censorship has thrown a veil of secrecy over the number of federal forces here and on the developments between this port and Chihuahua City.

Mexican officials admitted last night the telegraph lines were cut and train service had been suspended but would give out no information as to the outcome of the fighting reported south of Laguna, 75 miles north of Chihuahua City. General Hernandez was believed to have come in contact with Villa forces and a general engagement is expected during the next 24 hours.

Dead and wounded federal officers and soldiers were being brought to Guaymas, Sonora, on special trains after the engagements between Yaquis and federals last week, reports reaching here last night stated.

### DICKER WITH HUNS; RUSSIA NEARS CRISIS

Moscow Cadets Join With New Cossack Leader in South.

Petrograd, Nov. 28.—Representatives sent by Ensign Krylenko, who is Bolshevik commander-in-chief of the Russian army, have been received in the German lines and informed by the German commander that the Germans have officially consented to immediate negotiations for an armistice on all fronts of the belligerent countries.

The Germans have set Dec. 2 for a conference for negotiation of an armistice.

Petrograd, Tuesday, Nov. 27. (10:30 p. m.)—It is announced officially at the Smolny Institute, the headquarters of the Bolsheviks, that representatives of Ensign Krylenko, the Bolshevik commander-in-chief, have crossed to the German side and entered into negotiations with the German military authorities.

London, Nov. 28.—The military cadets and virtually all of the officers of the anti-Bolshevik troops in the Moscow district, according to the Petrograd correspondent of the Morning Post, have gone to join General Kaledin, leader of the Cossacks, who is reported in control of most of southern Russia.

Many hundreds of officers from regiments stationed in the rear and numbers from the front and virtually all the officers of the guard regiments, it is said, also have gone over to General Kaledin.

Elections Not Exciting.

Little excitement has attended the elections to the constitutional assembly now being held in Petrograd, says the Petrograd correspondent of the Daily Mail in a dispatch dated Tuesday. He thinks that less than fifty per cent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots, but that perhaps another 10 per cent would vote before the polls closed Tuesday afternoon.

News from the army fronts, the correspondent says, is contradictory, but apparently the vast mass of soldiers support the Lenin government. Ensign Krylenko, the commander of war, has gone to Pskov, where he has dismissed General Tcheremissoff and given his command to a commissioner for the northern front.

General chaos, he adds, is spreading steadily, and the extremists undoubtedly are gaining ground among the soldiers and the classes.

America Watching Events.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The conference at Petrograd today of Russian political leaders, which according to a London Times dispatch, is for the purpose of forming a government representative of all parties, added to the interest with which official Washington, and unofficial Washington as well, is watching the march of developments in that changing capital.

What really lies behind the conference it was too early for officials to judge. It was significant that former members of the Kerensky cabinets were among those who assembled along with the Bolshevik leaders, although the calling in of some members of an overthrown regime, it is recognized, may be a strategic move for effect on the diplomatic corps at Petrograd, who have uniformly refused to indicate any recognition of the newly-sprung element in power, while Russian diplomats and consuls in this country openly repudiate it.

News of the conference followed overnight the London report that German staff officers are already in Petrograd acting as military advisers of the government in power.

The American government and the entente allies as well, will determine whether the Bolsheviks are actually to be classed as enemies and active allies of Germany as soon as official advice can be gathered in conferences between the two sides.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Vicinity.

Generally fair tonight and Thursday; warmer Thursday, with the lowest temperature tonight near freezing.

Temperature at 7 a. m., 35. Highest yesterday, 37. Lowest last night, 24.

Velocity of wind at 7 a. m., 3 miles per hour.

Precipitation, none.

Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 95; at 7 a. m., 83; at 1 p. m. today, 73.

Stage of water, 2.5; a fall of 1.1 ft. last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Meteorologist.